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DISSEMINATING COLLIER FAMILY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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The Sons of Charles Vines Collier, Sr. and Rebecca Owen Collier

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 7:55 PM \ [4 COMMENTS](#) \ [BY COLLIERHERITAGE](#) \ [EDIT](#)



Confederate Iron Cross at the grave of Sgt. Isaac Peterson Collier

The thread of the Confederacy is prominent in the tapestry that is the history of the Southern Collier family. A preliminary count reveals over 25 grandsons and great-grandsons of Vines Collier who served in the Army of the Confederate States of America. (As a side note, some came from slave

holding families, some did not.) Perhaps nowhere is the thread more evident than in the sons of Charles Vines Collier, Sr. and Rebecca Owen Collier. Most of the information for this post comes from a compilation by the late Ramon Collier, a descendant of Charles Vines and Rebecca Collier.

Charles Vines Collier, Sr. was the son of Isaac Collier and the grandson of Vines Collier (see post "Isaac Collier, Son of Vines & Elizabeth Collier"). He was born in 1793 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia and married Rebecca M. Owen on June 4, 1829. Charles and Rebecca had twelve children. Seven of the 12 were sons. All wore Confederate gray. From youngest to oldest they were:

1. **James Glenn Collier** – born Oct. 2, 1848 in Upson County, Georgia; enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of 15; saw action around Atlanta in the last months of the war.
2. **Charles Vines Collier, Jr.** – born in Upson County, Georgia Oct. 10, 1846; enlisted in Co. B, 2nd Battalion, Georgia Sharpshooters on April 16, 1864 at Dalton, Georgia at the age of 17; was captured at Nashville, Tennessee on Dec. 16, 1864; spent the remainder of the war in prison (including Camp Douglas, Illinois); was discharged on May 17, 1865; reportedly walked home, travelling mostly at night; was never paid for his service to the Confederacy.
3. **Pascal Smith Collier** – born in Upson County, Georgia Oct. 29, 1844; was wounded at the Seven-Day Battle of Richmond and died of those wounds July 4, 1862 at the age of 17; buried in an unmarked grave (approximate location known) at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. Named for his uncle, Paschal Smith, who reportedly served with his father (Charles Vines Collier, Sr.) in the War of 1812. **UPDATE See Addition at the End of this Post**
4. **John Brackett Collier** – born in Upson County, Georgia Feb. 22, 1840; rode horseback from Thomaston, Georgia to West Point, Mississippi and enlisted in the 14th Mississippi Regiment; was wounded at Franklin, Tennessee; spent 6 months in a Union prison in Chicago.
5. **Hardeman Owen Collier** – born 1838 in Upson County, Georgia; was 3rd Lieutenant and 2nd Captain of Co. A, 46th Georgia Regiment of Gist's Brigade and General Walker's Division; died June 20th, 1864 of wounds received at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in the defense of Atlanta; he is buried in an unmarked grave (approximate location known) at the foot of the mountain; The story of his death is found in the Diary of Sgt. Jim White: *"(Captain) Collier was killed near our breastworks. I heard and saw where the minnie ball struck him before he fell, dropping on the knee. I asked if he was hurt much, in response, running up to our breastworks we secured a litter and bore him over the works while minnie balls flew thick and fast. He died in about an hour without speaking."*
6. **William Thomas Collier** – born March 27, 1835 in Upson County, Georgia; was a member of Co. B, 2nd Battalion, Georgia Sharpshooters
7. **Isaac Peterson Collier** – born July 7, 1831 in Upson County, Georgia; joined Co. K, 5th Georgia Volunteer Infantry along with two of his cousins (Charles V. and Cuthbert Hicks Collier, sons of Cuthbert S. Collier); was recognized for heroism and offered a battlefield commission for his actions at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in the defense of Atlanta. He eloquently declined the promotion. Brigadier General John King Jackson reported the act in a general order recognizing the deed as an "act of distinguished valor":

On the 21st instant, while this brigade was in line of battle behind breastworks, and under a heavy fire from the enemy's artillery, a shrapnel shot with a Roman fuse struck the works, passed under the top log, and fell among the men in the ditch.

While the fuse was still smoking, and the men were flying from the danger of the apprehended explosion, Sergeant Isaac P. Collier, of Company K, Fifth Regiment Georgia Volunteers, seized the projectile and threw it out of the ditch.

In the judgment of the brigade commander, this is a case which calls for the exercise of the power of appointment for "acts of distinguished valor," which is vested in the President....²

Here is an eye witness account by John H. Harp, one of the men saved by Isaac Peterson Collier. It was written years later, and this explains the inconsistency in the date.

In the last days of May, or the first of June, 1864, while we were in the trenches to the left of Kennesaw [sic] Mountain, Ga., there was continuous heavy artillery firing on our lines, making it necessary for us to stay in the trenches, though the frequent heavy rains had made the trenches damp and muddy. One day a time-fused 12-pound shell struck our earthworks below the headlog, and its velocity was so impeded that it fell in the trench right among the men at that point, the fuse burning and spluttering, just ready to explode. Of course, we sprang out of that trench at once, but while the fuse was still burning and spluttering, Sergt. I. P. (Pete) Collier, of Company K, 5th Georgia Regiment, jerked up that shell in his hands and tossed it out of the trench. It fell into a puddle of water and the fuse was put out, so the shell did not explode. I think that was a cool, brave act, and for it Pete Collier was offered a commission as lieutenant in Company E, but he would not leave his old Company K, the Upton [sic] Guards....³

Sgt. Collier was offered a battlefield commission in Company E, but declined with the following statement on June 24, 1864.

Captain: I have the honor to most respectfully decline the above promotion. In throwing the shell from the ditch, I am conscious of having done nothing but my duty in attempting to save my life and the lives of the men around me. I prefer to remain in my company with my comrades, whom I left home with on the 7th day of May, 1861.

Isaac Peterson Collier's brave deed took place on June 21, 1864. Sgt. Collier's brother, Hardeman Owen Collier, had been killed only the day before in the same battle. It is not known whether he was aware of his brother's death.

For his bravery, Isaac Peterson Collier was nominated for the Confederate Medal of Honor in 1996.

The vote to approve failed with a 3 – 3 tie. Subsequent efforts to approve the recognition were even less successful. In the Kennesaw Mountain Battleground Museum, the bravery of Isaac Peterson Collier is acknowledged by a plaque on the informational rail.

Fighting in

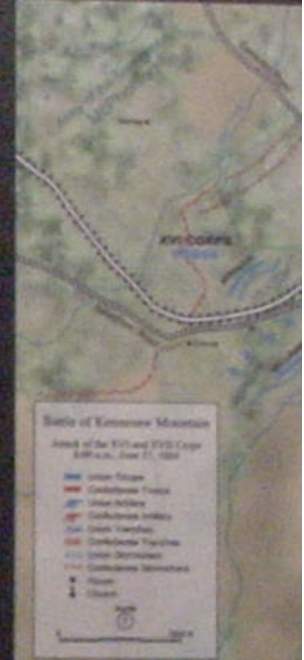
An Act of Valor

On June 21, as Sherman's artillery pounds Confederate positions south of the Burnt Hickory Road, a 12-pounder shell ploughs into the earthworks held by the 5th Georgia Infantry. With its fuse still burning and hissing, it passes underneath the headlog and falls at the feet of Sergeant Isaac P. Collier.



As the men on either side of him dive for cover, Collier grabs the sputtering shell and heaves it out of the trench. It lands in a nearby puddle that puts out the fuse, preventing a frightful blast.

Taking note of the incident, Sergeant Collier's brigade commander orders him promoted to second lieutenant, but Collier respectfully declines the honor. *"In throwing the shell from the ditch,"* he writes, *"I am conscious of having done nothing but my duty in attempting to save my life and the lives of the men around me."*



Kennesaw Mountain, June 21, 1864



Grave of Sgt. Isaac Peterson Collier, Isaac Collier Cemetery, Upson County, Georgia.

After publishing this post, I received the following email from Kathleen Collier Burgess, daughter of the late Ramon Collier and his wife Carol. Kathleen, I believe, is the great-granddaughter of Charles Vines Collier, Jr. I hope she corrects me if I am wrong.

Mom forwarded your email about the post regarding the sons of Charles Vines and Rebecca Owen Collier. She asked me to give you the following information:

In 2003 Dad, Mom and I went to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond and found the grave of Pascal Smith Collier. There was a number for him (471, section M) recorded in the office which was also on a very small marker. The identification number was available because Pascal was injured and hospitalized there before dying from his wounds. Dad and Mom sent ~\$100 to a government organization and had a marker erected at the grave site, so it is no longer unmarked.

Here is a link with a photograph for your records:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9747032>

Thank you for keeping up the historical record.

– Kathleen Collier Burgess

Thank you, Kathleen, for this additional information. Here is the marker.



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4 Thoughts on “The Sons of Charles Vines Collier, Sr. and Rebecca Owen Collier”



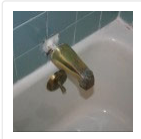
Wayne Collier

on [September 15, 2015 at 8:44 am](#) said:

[Edit](#)

Very interesting, thanks for sharing!

[Reply↓](#)



Heidi Crabtree

on [January 15, 2017 at 9:09 pm](#) said:

[Edit](#)

Just discovering my Colliers on the tree outside of Indiana. I used to live in Kennesaw when my spouse was stationed at Ft McPherson, never knew...

[Reply↓](#)



Greg C. White

on [August 13, 2018 at 10:08 pm](#) said:

[Edit](#)

Hello,

Can you provide me with details about the nomination of Isaac P. Collier for the Confederate Medal of Honor, and was there a reason it failed?

I'm not a Collier family member, but a published Civil War author, and I'm also a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

[Reply↓](#)



collierheritage

on [August 14, 2018 at 8:03 am](#) said:

[Edit](#)

First of all, we welcome all who have an interest in Collier family history. Starting in Virginia in the mid-1600s, Collier history is the history of this nation.

CHF has a file on the subject of Isaac Peterson Collier. The information will be put up as a new post in the near future, so please “subscribe” so that you will be notified.

Thank you,

